UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.1/51/3
10 October 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-first session
FIRST COMMITTEE

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND TIMETABLE

	Subject/meeting	Dates	Number of meetings
1.	Meeting for the organization of work	Thursday, 10 October (10 a.m.)	1
2.	General debate on all disarmament and international security agenda items (items 60, 61, 63-81) a/	Monday, 14 October-Thursday, 24 October	10
3.	Structured discussion of specific subjects on the adopted thematic approach on disarmament and international security agenda items (items 60, 61, 63-81) b/	Monday, 28 October-Thursday, 31 October	5
4.	Introduction and consideration of draft resolutions submitted on all disarmament and international security agenda items (items 60, 61, 63-81) c/	Friday, 1 November-Thursday, 7 November	7

a/ The list of speakers will be closed on Monday, 14 October, at 6 p.m.

b/ Informal meetings with full conference facilities.

c/ Deadline for submission of draft resolutions will be on Tuesday, 29 October, at 6 p.m.

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	Subject/meeting	Dates	Number of meetings
5.	Action on draft resolutions submitted on all disarmament and international security agenda items (items 60, 61, 63-81)	Friday, 8 November-Monday, 18 November	10
6.	General debate, consideration of and action on agenda item 62 entitled "The question of Antarctica" d/	Monday, 25 November-Tuesday, 26 November	3

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d/ The list of speakers will be closed on Monday, 25 November, at 12 noon and the deadline for submission of draft resolution(s) will be on Monday, 18 November, at 6 p.m.

Annex

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

7-11 October	Monday - 7		Tuesday - 8		Wednesday - 9		Thursday - 10		Friday - 11	
	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
				X			X			

14-18 October	Monday - 14		Tuesday - 15		Wednesday - 16		Thursday - 17		Friday - 18	
	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
	X			X		X		X	X	X

21-25 October	Monday - 21		Tuesday - 22		Wednesday - 23		Thursday - 24		Friday - 25	
	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
		X	X				X	X		

28 October- 1 November	Monday - 28		Tuesday - 29		Wednesday - 30		Thursday - 31		Friday - 1	
	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
	X			X	X	X		X	X	X

4-8 November	Monday - 4		Tuesday - 5		Wednesday - 6		Thursday - 7		Friday - 8	
	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
	X	X			X	X		X	X	X

11-15 November	Monday - 11		Tuesday - 12		Wednesday - 13		Thursday - 14		Friday - 15	
	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	

18-22 November	Monday - 18		Tuesday - 19		Wednesday - 20		Thursday - 21		Friday - 22	
	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
		X								

25-29 November	Monday - 25		Tuesday - 26		Wednesday - 27		Thursday - 28		Friday - 29	
	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
	X	X		X						

UNITED
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General Assembly

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A/C.1/51/4
2 October 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-first session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 66

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

Letter from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on the signing of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by Viet Nam on 24 September 1996.

It would be highly appreciated if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 66.

(Signed) NGO QUANG XUAN
Permanent Representative

96-26091 (E) 071096 101096

ANNEX

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam on the signing of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

On 24 September 1996, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, on behalf of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam, signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Viet Nam's signature of the Treaty demonstrates its consistent policy of commitment to supporting and actively contributing to the common efforts of the international community for peace, international security and disarmament, especially the efforts for nuclear disarmament towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Nuclear energy should and must be used only for peaceful purposes, serving the needs of human welfare.

Together with the signing of the Treaty, Viet Nam shares the common demand by the international community that all States must not conduct any nuclear testing in any form whatsoever. At the same time, Viet Nam is of the view that all countries should enhance their cooperation, scrupulously observing the ban on all nuclear testing together with commitments and actions to undertake concrete steps towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Viet Nam stands ready to cooperate with all countries for the effective implementation of the Treaty, contributing to a cleaner global environment and living conditions, enhancement of confidence and strengthening of international security, aimed at a more secure and healthy world. At the same time, Viet Nam further reaffirms its position that, in the implementation of the Treaty, the verification activities must be conducted in a fair and impartial manner, with absolute respect for the sovereignty of States.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

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2 October 1996
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Fifty-first session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda items 66 and 71

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 30 September 1996 from the Permanent Mission of Kazakstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakstan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement made on 30 September 1996 by Mr. N. A. Nazarbaev, the President of the Republic of Kazakstan, in connection with the opening for signature of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

We should be grateful if the text of this letter and its annex could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 66 and 71.

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ANNEX

Statement made by the President of Kazakstan, on 30 September 1996 in connection with the opening for signature of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

The opening for signature of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was greeted with deep satisfaction in Kazakstan.

Five years ago Kazakstan made a historic choice when it put an end to tests of the most dangerous weapons in the history of mankind. Thus the operating Semipalatinsk nuclear test site was closed - the first time in the world that such a decision had been made by a Head of State.

As a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Kazakstan complies strictly with its international obligations in that connection and consistently implements a policy of non-proliferation of other types of weapons of mass destruction. Recently the last nuclear missile launchers in the territory of Kazakstan were eliminated. Thus there are no longer any nuclear weapons in our country, which previously ranked fourth in the world in total potential nuclear-weapon power.

The people of Kazakstan have become fully aware of the enormous destructive power of nuclear weapons. In the difficult conditions of the transitional period, the wounds inflicted on our people by hundreds of nuclear explosions are healing. The infrastructure of the former Semipalatinsk test site is being eliminated.

After 42 years of nuclear-weapon tests, including tests in the atmosphere and underground, Kazakstan is still experiencing their consequences. Hundreds of thousands of people have been left maimed and sick, and the land is contaminated.

The Republic of Kazakstan is counting on the assistance of the international community to achieve the complete elimination of the effects of nuclear tests on the health of the people and on the environment. We believe that it is above all the nuclear Powers which must assume special responsibility for the rehabilitation of nuclear-test victims.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was a consequence of the positive changes in the international arena in recent years. Kazakstan pays tribute to the enormous amount of work carried out by many States on the road to the Treaty. We note with satisfaction that our country, too, made its contribution to the preparation of what is one of the most important agreements of this century.

Nuclear weapons must never again, in any circumstances, become a means of destroying people and the natural environment. The halting of nuclear-weapon tests is a supremely noble goal for nuclear-weapon States.

(Signed) N. NAZARBAEV

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10 October 1996

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Fifty-first session
FIRST COMMITTEE

ALLOCATION OF AGENDA ITEMS TO THE FIRST COMMITTEE

Letter dated 26 September 1996 from the Chairman of the Fifth Committee to the Chairman of the First Committee

At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1996, the General Assembly decided to allocate agenda item 114, Programme planning, to the Fifth Committee. You may recall that the General Assembly, in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, resolved to achieve improvement in the consultative process for the formulation of the medium-term plan through, inter alia, consultations in a systematic way regarding the major programmes in the plan with sectoral, technical, regional and central bodies in the United Nations, with a view to establishing the broadest possible agreement. As in the past, it is, therefore, understood that each programme of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, as appropriate, will be submitted to the Main Committees for review.

In that connection, I would like to invite you to ensure that the programme of work of your Committee is organized in such a manner as to facilitate the consideration of the proposed programmes relevant to the work of your Committee prior to the consideration of the item by the Fifth Committee.

I wish to inform you that the Fifth Committee intends to begin its consideration of the item on programme planning on 21 October.

I should therefore be grateful if you would bring this issue to the attention of your Committee and arrange that the views of your Committee on programme 1, Political affairs, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 are communicated to me as soon as possible.

(Signed) Ngoni Francis SENGWE
Chairman
Fifth Committee of the
General Assembly

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Fifty-first session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 71

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 4 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 2 October 1996 the Council of Ministers of the French Republic adopted some important decisions relating to anti-personnel mines. They are summarized in the document annexed hereto.

I draw your attention, in particular, to the commitment made by France to refrain from the use of anti-personnel mines, and to my country's determination to arrive at a legally binding and verifiable international agreement on a total and comprehensive ban on anti-personnel mines within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament, which appears to be the appropriate forum for negotiations in this area.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 71 of the agenda.

(Signed) Alain DEJAMMET
Permanent Representative

96-27112 (E) 111096 111096 121096

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ANNEX

I

On 2 October 1996 the Council of Ministers adopted the following guidelines concerning France's contribution to the global campaign against anti-personnel mines:

1. France confirms its decision to refrain from producing and exporting anti-personnel mines. The Government will submit a bill designed to give legislative effect to these commitments. It will report to Parliament on the progress of the international campaign against anti-personnel mines and the contribution which our country has made thereto.

2. France proposes to arrive at a legally binding and verifiable international agreement on a total and comprehensive ban on anti-personnel mines. Hence, it will refrain from the use of anti-personnel mines, except where such use is absolutely necessary to protect its forces. In the latter case, any exception could be authorized only by a decision of the governmental authorities. Anti-personnel mines would be used strictly in accordance with safety requirements and in complete conformity with the international conventions in force.

3. France will continue with the reduction by destruction of its stockpile of anti-personnel mines initiated in September 1996.

II

These decisions have far-reaching implications.

France is the first permanent member of the Security Council to adopt a doctrine based on such a strict ban on the use of anti-personnel mines.

France's choice of a non-use doctrine is particularly significant in the light of its international responsibilities and the involvement of its troops in global peacekeeping efforts.

This new doctrine admits of no geographical exceptions; it applies to all categories of anti-personnel mines, and has been adopted for an indefinite period.

The sole exception to the proposed ban is highly restrictive, as it requires a decision by the governmental authorities, based on the absolute necessity of ensuring the safety of our forces.

Secondly, the Government is submitting to Parliament a bill which will give legislative effect to the commitments undertaken previously to refrain from producing and exporting anti-personnel mines.

Such a move is designed to meet the concern with giving a more legally binding effect to the commitments which we made to stop exporting (1993) and producing (1995) anti-personnel mines.

Thirdly, these guidelines meet the goal set by the President of the French Republic of "further mobilizing the international community to move towards a total and comprehensive ban on anti-personnel mines".

France believes that these efforts will acquire their full meaning only through the adoption of a legally binding and verifiable international agreement on a total and comprehensive ban on anti-personnel mines.

It hopes that the United Nations General Assembly will adopt an approach aimed at the rapid opening of multilateral negotiations for a ban on anti-personnel mines.

The Conference on Disarmament in Geneva appears to be the appropriate forum for negotiations. Political conferences, such as the one held at Ottawa, Canada, from 3 to 5 October 1996, should help to provide the momentum needed to move towards a ban on anti-personnel mines.

France calls upon all States to emulate its efforts.

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FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 66

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

Letter dated 3 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Secretary-General

I refer to the letter addressed to you by Ambassador Mark Moher, Permanent Representative of Canada, forwarding the document entitled "Text on the establishment of a Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban-Treaty Organization".

The letter states, inter alia, that the document is the result of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament carried out in the framework of the negotiations resulting in the Treaty text subsequently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 September 1996 under resolution 50/245.

This statement is factually inaccurate. The negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament did not result in a Treaty text and no text of a Treaty was forwarded by the Conference to the United Nations General Assembly. The text that was adopted by the General Assembly on 10 September under resolution 50/245 was one that was brought to the General Assembly by the delegation of Australia as an annex to its letter of 22 August 1996, claiming that it was identical to the text contained in document CD/1427, which was a national paper circulated at the request of the delegation of Belgium in the Conference on Disarmament.

It is requested that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly so that the factual position can be correctly portrayed.

(Signed) Arundhati GHOSE
Permanent Representative

96-27794 (E) 171096 181096